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NEWS RELEASE

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August 6, 2004

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PAYMENTS FROM A DISABLED VETERAN

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Charles K. Hyter**, 61, Hutchinson, Kansas, was sentenced on August 5, 2004, by U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten to **15 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by two years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$43,505.41 in restitution.**

Melgren said that Hyter entered a guilty plea on May 27, 2004, to **one count of making a false writing to the Department of Veterans Administration and one count of converting social security disability benefits to his personal use.**

Melgren said that Hyter admitted at his plea that on June 29, 1999, while he was an appointed fiduciary for a veteran of the United States military, he made a false writing to the Department of Veterans Administration representing that the money Hyter received for the benefit of the disabled veteran had been spent on behalf of the veteran when Hyter knew that the majority of the funds received for the veteran were spent for Hyter's personal benefit. Hyter further admitted that from sometime in 1997 through March 2003 he converted social security disability benefits that were issued to the disabled veteran for Hyter's personal use.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Social Security Administration, Office of General Counsel and the Department of Veterans Affairs in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger in this prosecution.